Daily Report
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Agency Chief Faults Murayama on Land Lease Issue

OW1910051495 Tokyo Nikkei Telecom Database in Japanese 19 Oct 95

[From NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 19 October Morning Edition]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Teijiro Furukawa on 18 October, Director General Noboru Hoshuyama of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] talked about Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota's refusal to undertake proxy signing procedures required for the forced use of uncontracted land for U.S. military bases. He sternly criticized how the prime minister is dealing with the problem. He said: "Prime Minister Murayama is stupid; that is why things turned out like this. I hope he acts calmly in accordance with the law."

This was revealed by a top DFAA official in the early evening of 18 October. However, Hoshuyama told reporters early in the morning of 19 October that "I did not say he is stupid."

In this connection, a government source said: "That was an outrageous remark. It may call for his dismissal."

At his meeting with Furukawa, Hoshuyama pointed out that: "Governor Ota says the prime minister is asking him to undertake proxy signing (based on the Local Government Act)." He also said: "If we do not act according to the law, this will hurt our international reputation as a country under the rule of law." This was meant to emphasize that if Ota continues to refuse to do proxy signing of land documents, the prime minister should sign the papers himself.

Murayama on Plans for Nov U.S. Summit Talks

OW2410030495 Tokyo Nikkei Telecom Database in Japanese 24 Oct 95 FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[From NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 24 Oct Morning Edition]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on 23 October firmed up a plan to not only reconfirm a Japan-U.S. agreement on the early conclusion of 26 items regarding the trimming of military bases, but also to call for a further cutback in military bases at the Japan-U.S. summit talks scheduled for November. At the same time, the prime minister wants to work out a long-term base reduction plan and hopes to accept the U.S. side's pledge of a phased reduction of U.S. military bases by showing the plan. As for further cutbacks, the government is considering calling for expanding areas to be returned from the Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma or leisure facilities.

Although Japan's negotiations with the United States are expected to be rough going, the prime minister for his part has decided to give priority to Okinawa's demands and call for the phased reduction of military bases. Particularly, as for the further cutback of military bases, the prime minister took a cautious approach in making a new proposal on further cuts because of a possible rejection by the United States. However, since Defense Secretary Perry indicated a flexible attitude regarding the base issues, the prime minister has decided to offer proposals at the summit meeting.

MCAS Futenma, which the government plans to include in the new proposals, is a Marine Corps' base with an area of about 480 hectares located in Ginowan city, south of Okinawa. Taking into consideration the fact that the base is located in the center of the city and the noise issue and accidents are becoming more serious, the government has decided to study a possible increase in areas to be returned by the U.S. Armed Forces. So far, Japan has agreed with the United States on the return of a part of MCAS Futenma, just under four hectares. In addition, the government hopes to include such leisure facilities as a golf course in the proposals on the grounds that "the return of such facilities are more agreeable for the United States" (according to a government source) because leisure facilities, which are scattered in Okinawa, are exerting a baneful influence upon the development of the areas.

In connection with the 26 items, progress has not been made in the return process because bases to be returned are subject to relocation within Okinawa. With such a fact in mind, the government is considering calling on the United States to ease conditions for the return. In making a proposal for a future reduction of military bases, the government, taking into consideration Okinawa's concern that the reaffirmation of the current security arrangements at the Japan-U.S. summit talks will lead to the permanent use of lands as U.S. military bases, hopes to take some pledges of future cutbacks.

MOFA Reacts to Perry Remark on Okinawa Bases

OW2410024995 Tokyo Nikkei Telecom Database in Japanese 24 Oct 95 FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[From NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 24 October Morning Edition]

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's remarks during a television program in the United States which indicated a flexible attitude toward the reduction of U.S. forces on Okinawa,

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